

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

Calgary

October 24, 2016

News story #1 Prentice plane crash under investigation (0:12)

Setting the Scene



Jim Prentice, *left*, (The Canadian Press/Jeff McIntosh) (CBC file photo), and the site of the plane crash (TSB) (CBC file photo)

Jim Prentice was a Canadian politician from Alberta. He served as a Member of Parliament and as the minister of several departments of government. He also served as Premier of Alberta for many years. Prentice died in a plane crash in British Columbia on October 13th, 2016. The police are trying to find more information about the plane crash.

Pre-listening Questions

What does a member of parliament do?

What does a minister do?

What does a premier do?

What are some reasons why a plane might crash?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the synonym (word with similar meaning) that best matches each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
_____	crash (n.)	a) study
_____	continues (v.)	b) remains
_____	completed (v.)	c) research centre
_____	site (n.)	d) viewers
_____	wreckage (n.)	e) finished
_____	lab (n.)	f) trouble
_____	pilot (n.)	g) accident
_____	examine (v.)	h) carry out
_____	conduct (v.)	i) place
_____	witnesses (n.)	j) plane operator
_____	distress (n.)	k) keeps going

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

helicopter - a small aircraft with a motor and spinning propellers on the roof

radar - a system for detecting ships, planes, and other objects

air traffic control - the people who monitor air traffic in a particular area, usually an airport

voice recorders - machines that make an audio record of sound (e.g., people talking)

We encourage you to study these new words using this link:

https://quizlet.com/_2oem74

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Prentice and three other men were killed.
2. ____ The plane crashed shortly after take-off from the Calgary airport.
3. ____ The Transportation Safety Board still has lots to do.
4. ____ Some pieces of the wreckage will be taken to a lawyer in Ottawa.
5. ____ The Board will review the pilot's background.
6. ____ They will also review all communications with Air and Ocean Control.
7. ____ The Board will conduct health examinations with witnesses.
8. ____ Officials have already said that the plane did not have flight data.
9. ____ There were two distress calls sent before the crash.
10. ____ A state memorial will be held on October 24th.

Food for Thought

What do you think might have caused the crash?

What do you think Canada can do to remember Jim Prentice? What can Alberta do?

In your country, how are famous people remembered when they die?

News story #2 New mortgage rules could slow housing market (1:27)

Setting the Scene



(Jonathan Hayward/Canadian Press) (CBC File photo)

In Canada, most people borrow money from the bank to buy a house. This loan is called a mortgage. The Finance Minister has announced changes to regulations around mortgages. Some buyers will need to pass a “stress test.” This will show whether they can afford the mortgage, even if insurance rates change. People are worried that these changes will make it more difficult to buy a home in Canada. First-time buyers are especially worried. Realtors say fewer people may buy homes, which is not good for the economy.

Pre-listening Questions

In your country, do most people live in homes or apartments?

Do the homes or apartments look different from the ones in Canada?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of buying a home instead of renting?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

federal (adj.)	relating to the government of a country
mortgage (n.)	a debt to a bank or creditor, used to buy a home or property
debt (n.)	something owed to someone (usually money)
afford (v.)	have enough money to buy
down payment (n.)	the first payment on an item that is bought on credit
real estate (n.)	property of land or buildings
qualify (v.)	meeting a condition in order to get something
take effect (v.)	start to apply

1. Catherine wants to save \$25,000 so she can make a _____ on an apartment.
2. After graduating from university, many students have a lot of _____ from the cost of tuition, books, food and rent.
3. In December, the new smoking law will _____, so people will no longer be allowed to smoke in parks or on beaches.
4. Provinces take care of health cards and drivers' licenses. However, passports are _____, so the Canadian government is responsible for them.
5. Lee loves downtown Halifax, but he can't _____ to live there, so he lives outside the city.
6. In order to help people with their expenses, first-time home buyers _____ for a \$500 tax credit from the government.
7. In smaller towns and suburbs, _____ is much cheaper than in big cities. \$300,000 can buy a house in Oakville, but only a small apartment in Toronto.

8. Carolyn has several monthly bills to pay: her phone, Internet, electricity, insurance, and the _____ on her home.

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

interest rate - amount of money regularly paid for the use of a loan or debt

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https://quizlet.com/_2oemgl

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Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Read the following questions. Then listen to the audio and choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. New federal mortgage rules are now _____.	a) implied b) undone c) in place
2. The changes are meant to _____ the market.	a) slow down b) speed up c) stop
3. Under the new rules, anyone with a down payment of less than _____ must pass a new stress test.	a) 30% b) 20% c) 12%
4. Buyers who don't pass the test will not be able to get a _____.	a) new home b) mortgage c) lawyer
5. A real estate expert believes the new rules will hit _____'s market hardest.	a) Alberta b) Athabasca c) Atlantic Canada
6. The province's slowing economy is already _____ affecting housing sales and prices.	a) not really b) negatively c) largely
7. Some experts believe the new test could mean people will qualify for a mortgage which is _____% smaller.	a) 123 b) 23 c) 20-30

Food for thought

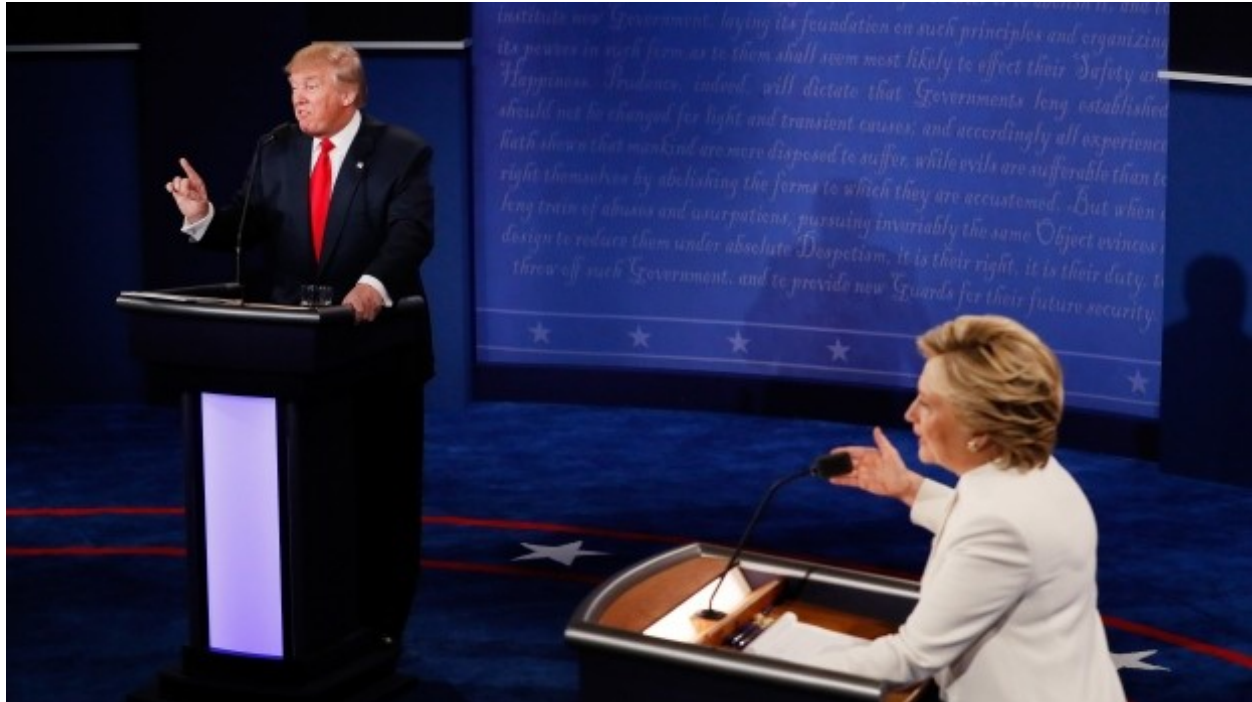
Are houses in Canada more or less expensive than in your country? Why do you think that is?

Do you think this rule will help or hurt home-buyers? Why?

News story #3

Trump says he may not accept election results (2:40)

Setting the Scene



US presidential candidates Donald Trump (*left*) and Hillary Clinton (*right*) in their third and final debate (Mark Ralston/Getty Images) (CBC file photo)

In November, the United States will vote for a new President. The two candidates are Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. The media has discussed this election a lot, because the candidates are so unique and different from each other. Trump is often discussed because he has never worked in politics. He has been criticized for comments about immigrants, Muslims and women.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you follow political news? Why or why not?

What do you know about the US presidential election?

In your country, how do candidates communicate their ideas with the people?
Do they have debates, as they do in the US?

Vocabulary

Find the Definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Tonight, two members of City Council will **debate** the new traffic laws on TV.
 - a. present
 - b. formally argue
2. The coworkers were so angry, they needed a **moderator** to help them solve the problem.
 - a. someone to guide the discussion
 - b. someone to take notes on the discussion
3. The city will vote for a new mayor in next year's **election**.
 - a. the process of choosing a new leader
 - b. the process of presenting a new idea
4. Tom complained that the contest was **rigged** – the winner was the director's wife.
 - a. arranged to be safe
 - b. arranged to give a particular result
5. Amy is reading a great mystery book. The story has her in **suspense**.
 - a. not knowing what will happen
 - b. not liking what is happening
6. Prisoners lived in **horrificing** conditions – no heat, no toilet and very little water or food.
 - a. related to crime
 - b. shocking, scary
7. Clinton has a clear **position** on education – she wants to reduce tuition costs for students.
 - a. opinion, point of view
 - b. location of her house
8. Holly's boss made rude comments about her dress, so she **filed** a complaint against him.
 - a. reduced or re-shaped
 - b. submitted to an authority
9. Critics say Trump's idea to build a border wall is **questionable** because it won't fix the problem.
 - a. complicated
 - b. has problems

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

head-to-head – against each other, as in a sport or contest

abortion – a medical procedure of terminating a pregnancy

Wiki-leaks – a journalistic group that publishes secret information online

We encourage you to study these new words using this link:

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Listening Activity

Fixing Errors

Listen to the news story and read the following sentences. Each sentence contains one error. Find the error and fix it so that the sentence is correct. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump went head-to-head in the first debate of the election.
2. They talked about topics such as abortion, immigration, Washington and Wiki-leaks.
3. Trump has repeatedly said the election is rigged to support him.
4. Trump would not answer the comments, telling the moderator he would, "keep you in suspense."
5. Clinton said the reason was horrifying.
6. Trump said he would accept a computer result but would file a legal challenge if the result was questionable.
7. He also added he would excuse the result if he wins.

Food for thought

If you could ask Trump and Clinton a question, what would you ask them?

What do you think a moderator does in a presidential debate? Why is it an important job?

Would you like to work in politics? Why or why not? What are the pros and cons of the work?

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Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	OCTOBER WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Shannon Scott and this is Learning English with CBC for October 24 th with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	<p>The investigation into the plane crash that killed former Alberta Premier Jim Prentice continues. Prentice and three other men were killed when the plane they were in crashed shortly after take-off from the Kelowna airport earlier this month. The Transportation Safety Board says it has completed work at the crash site but there is still lots to do. The wreckage will be removed by helicopter from the wooded area and some pieces will be taken to a lab in Ottawa. It will also look into the pilot's background, review the weather conditions, radar information and all communications with air traffic control. It will also examine aircraft records and conduct interviews with witnesses. Officials have already said the small plane did not have flight data or voice recorders on board.</p> <p>There were no distress calls sent before the crash. A state memorial for Prentice will be held in Calgary on October 28th.</p>	0:12
Story 2	<p>New federal mortgage rules are now in place which could make it harder for some Canadians to buy a home. The changes are meant to slow down the market and make sure people don't take on more debt than they can afford. Under the new rules, anyone who has a down payment of less than twenty percent must pass a new stress test. This test will need to show they could still afford to make payments even if interest rates rise. Buyers who don't pass the test would not be able to get a mortgage.</p> <p>A real estate expert believes the new rules will hit Alberta's market the hardest. That's because the province's slowing economy is already negatively affecting housing sales and prices. Some experts believe the new test could mean people will qualify for a mortgage which is 20 to 30 percent smaller than they could have qualified for before the rules took effect.</p>	1:27
Story 3	Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump once again went head-to-head in the last debate of the U-S Presidential election. During the debate, the candidates talked about topics such as abortion, immigration, Russia, and Wiki-leaks. But the most talked-about moment came at the end of the debate. That's when the moderator asked Trump if	2:40

	he would accept the result of the election. Over the past few weeks, Trump has repeatedly said the election is rigged against him. At the debate, Trump would not answer the question, telling the moderator he would "keep you in suspense". Clinton said that answer was horrifying. The day after the debate, Trump explained his position. He said he would accept a "clear" result but would file a legal challenge if the result was questionable. He also added he would accept the result if he wins.	
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Answer keys -

News story 1 - Prentice plane crash under investigation (0:12)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
g	crash (n.)	a) Study
k	continues (v.)	b) Remains
e	completed (v.)	c) research centre
i	site (n.)	d) viewers
b	wreckage (n.)	e) finished
c	lab (n.)	f) trouble
j	pilot (n.)	g) accident
a	examine (v.)	h) carry out
h	conduct (v.)	i) place
d	witnesses (n.)	j) plane operator
f	distress (n.)	k) keeps going

Listening

- 1. T** Prentice and three other men were killed.
- 2. F** The plane crashed shortly after take-off from the Calgary airport.
- 3. T** The Transportation Safety Board still has lots to do.
- 4. F** Some pieces of the wreckage will be taken to a lawyer in Ottawa.

5. **T** The Board will review the pilot's background.
6. **F** They will also review all communications with Air and Ocean Control.
7. **F** The Board will conduct health examinations with witnesses.
8. **T** Officials have already said that the plane did not have flight data.
9. **F** There were two distress calls sent before the crash.
10. **F** A state memorial will be held on October 24th.

News story 2 - New mortgage rules could slow housing market (1:27)

Vocabulary

1. Catherine wants to save \$25,000 so she can make a down payment on an apartment.
2. After graduating from university, many students have a lot of debt from the cost of tuition, books, food and rent.
3. In December, the new smoking law will take effect, so people will no longer be allowed to smoke in parks or on beaches.
4. Provinces take care of health cards and drivers' licenses. However, passports are federal, so the Canadian government is responsible for them.
5. Lee loves downtown Halifax, but he can't afford to live there, so he lives outside the city.
6. In order to help people with their expenses, first-time home buyers qualify for a \$500 tax credit from the government.
7. In smaller towns and suburbs, real estate is much cheaper than in big cities. \$300,000 can buy a house in Oakville, but only a small apartment in Toronto.
8. Carolyn has several monthly bills to pay: her phone, Internet, electricity, insurance, and the mortgage on her home.

Listening

1. New federal mortgage rules are now _____.	a) implied b) undone c) in place
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News story 3 - Trump says he may not accept election results (2:40)

Vocabulary

- Tonight, two members of City Council will **debate** the new traffic laws on TV.
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b. formally argue
- The coworkers were so angry, they needed a **moderator** to help them solve the problem.
a. someone to guide the discussion
b. someone to take notes on the discussion
- The city will vote for a new mayor in next year's **election**.
a. the process of choosing a new leader
b. the process of presenting a new idea

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7. Clinton has a clear **position** on education – she wants to reduce tuition costs for students.
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8. Holly's boss made rude comments about her dress, so she **filed** a complaint against him.
 - a. reduced or re-shaped
 - b. submitted to an authority
9. Critics say Trump's idea to build a border wall is **questionable** because it won't fix the problem.
 - a. complicated
 - b. has problems

Listening

1. Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump went head-to-head in the first **final** debate of the election.
2. They talked about topics such as abortion, immigration, Washington **Russia** and Wiki-leaks.
3. Trump has repeatedly said the election is rigged to support **against** him.
4. Trump would not answer the comments **questions**, telling the moderator he would, "keep you in suspense."
5. Clinton said the reason **answer** was horrifying.
6. Trump said he would accept a computer **clear** result but would file a legal challenge if the result was questionable.
7. He also added he would excuse **accept** the result if he wins.